Information Technology Career Pathway

What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:

- **11,841 Employers**
- **89,031 Workers**
- **$98,096 Average Wage**

Why Have a Career in IT?

IT professionals are drivers of innovation and interact with every level of an organization's structure. The Information Technology industry has over 11,000 employers that provide jobs to over 89,000 workers. Wages in this industry average $98,096, much higher than the state average of $54,801. Employment increased at a rate of 1.8 percent per year from 2015 to 2020, and represents 3.9 percent of all private sector employment. Missouri's IT industry overall has a lower employment concentration compared to the rest of the nation, however, some sectors within this industry have higher concentrations in the state, such as Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services and Graphic Design Services.

From Help Desk Technicians to Software Developers, there are a variety of job opportunities in the IT sector. High wages and projected growth make IT occupations a good career choice in Information Support Services and Programming & Development.

Know the Basics

Information Technology careers often involve interactions with clients and team members, so good communication skills and maintaining a professional demeanor are important. With technology constantly evolving and new innovations being discovered, a willingness to learn and apply new knowledge and skills is crucial for success in this industry. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability are important in all industries, including Information Technology.

Skills needed for Success:

Information Technology has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. Knowledge of databases, applications, networks, telecommunications, and software are important. IT professionals need to be able to provide assistance and technical support to customers and clients. Some of the skills needed for success in this industry include the ability to ensure products and services comply with both legal and regulatory requirements, as well as applying critical and analytical thinking to address problems.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Cerner Corporation
Fiserv
Jack Henry & Associates
Envision
SS&C Technologies Holdings

Information Support Services | Programming & Development

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Most Information Technology occupations require proven skills beyond a high school diploma. Some industry-recognized certifications that may launch a career in Information Technology, such as CompTIA or Microsoft Technology Associate, may be obtained in as little as three months. Occupations in the Next and Later categories require knowledge and experience using specific programming languages and skill sets.

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Information Support Services	Programming & Development
Computer User Support Specialists Entry: $38,080; Average: $53,600	**Web Developers** Entry: $52,130; Average: $72,330
Degrees: Computer Support Specialist, Information Technology **Certificates:** Certified A+, Network+, Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA)	**Degrees:** Computer Programming, Web Design & Multimedia App Development **Certificates:** Certified Web Design Specialist, Certified Web Consultant, Site Development Associate

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Information Support Services	Programming & Development
Computer Systems Analysts Entry: $64,360; Average: $85,180 **Information Security Analysts** Entry: $67,610; Average: $91,770 **Database Administrators** Entry: $61,060; Average: $83,360	**Software Developers** Entry: $73,420; Average: $96,530 **Computer Programmers** Entry: $62,220; Average: $82,590 **Graphic Designers** Entry: $38,340; Average: $52,680
Degrees: Computer Science, Information Technology	**Degrees:** Computer Science, Information Technology, Computer Engineering